egarding the location of the Tehri Dam in the Himalayas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the working group headed by Shri S. K. Roy, which assessed the environmental impact of the Dam expressed reservation over locating the Dam in a highly sensitive seismic zone and regarding extensive deforestation; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to protect the fragile eco-system of the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Action programmes on the following aspects are to be implemented as part of the project:

—Catchment Area Treatment;

—Compensatory afforestation;

—Stability of rim slopes; and

—Setting up a network of seismic stations.

Industriall accidents in chemical factories

3535. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are nearly 4000 chemical factories in the country and nearly 10,000 chemicals are produced by the organised sector and that these factories account for the maximum number of industrial accidents in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that many raw materials and intermediate chemicals stored at manufacturing plants are highly toxic and dangerous and these are not covered by the Environment Protection Act, 1986; and

(c) if so, what specific action Government propose to take to ensure that safety precautions are observed by the Pesticide and Chemical Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) As per provisional figures complied by Labour Bureau, Shimla, there were 6630 working chemical factories in the country in 1983 producing various types of chemicals. The total number of chemicals produced in these factories is not available. The rate of fatal injuries per 1000 workers during the year 1983 in the chemical industry was 0.14. During the same year, the rate of fatal injuries per 1000 workers was highest in manufacture of Basic Metal and Alloy Industries, being 0.26.

(b) and (c) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has made provisions regarding 'hazardous substances'. Besides, the Factories Act, 1948 has recently been amended in order to provide for special safeguards in regard to hazardous substances and lay down emergency standards and measures. Some of the provisions of the Amendment Act include general responsibilities of occupiers and manufacturers relating to health and safety of workers, declaration of safety policy and disclosure of information by the occupier in respect of hazardous processes, drawing up of emergency plans, workers' participation in safety management and accident prevention.

A number of steps have been taken by the Ministry of Labour to improve enforcement of provisions relating to safety. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening industrial hygiene laboratories under the Factories Directorates is under implementation. Steps have been taken for arranging training of Inspectors of Factories. A Project for establishment of Major Hazard Control System has also been taken up for implementation in collaboration with International Labour Organisation.